



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**Testimony in Support of HB 4881 and HB 4882**  
**Presented to the House Regulatory Reform Committee**  
**February 21, 2022**  
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**The Humane Society of the United States**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Michigan, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 4881 and HB 4882**, known collectively as *Teddy's Law*, introduced by Reps. Hertel and Brann. This legislation would require research institutions to take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of dogs and cats no longer needed for scientific purposes.

The Humane Society of the United States strongly supports, and advocates for, both animal protection and public health. We have active programs to promote what are known as the three R's: to *refine* research so it causes less suffering; to *reduce* the number of animals used for research purposes; and ultimately *replace* animals with non-animal methods that are faster, less expensive, and more relevant to human health than traditional animal studies, a goal shared with the scientific community.<sup>i</sup>

Federal law regulates the care and use of research animals while they are in the laboratory but does not offer any protection to the animal once the research project ends, except regarding humane euthanasia. This legislation addresses that deficiency by facilitating placement of companion animals in a loving home after the research concludes.

*Teddy's Law* simply provides an opportunity for dogs and cats to live a life in a home as an adopted pet once their time in the laboratory has come to an end—an opportunity that every dog and cat deserves. A number of people who have adopted former research dogs and cats can attest to the resilience and affection of these animals once they are given the chance to flourish in a home environment.

Thirteen states, including Minnesota and Illinois, have similar laws that require adoption to be considered, and numerous research facilities across the United States have instituted successful adoption programs for dogs, cats, and other animals. Importantly, *Teddy's Law* ensures that the authority as to when a dog or cat is determined no longer needed for scientific research still rests with the research institutions themselves. Animal shelters in Michigan have the expertise to ensure these animals are placed in proper homes.

Adoption programs, in addition to benefiting the animals, can decrease stress and improve morale among laboratory workers<sup>ii</sup>. *Teddy's Law* is a win-win solution for dogs and cats in Michigan laboratories and the workers who form bonds with these animals.

**The Humane Society of the United States requests a favorable report on HB 4481 and HB 4482.**

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<sup>i</sup> See HSUS statement on animals in biomedical research, testing and education  
[http://www.humanesociety.org/about/policy\\_statements/statement\\_animal\\_research.html#Uwth76Mo69I](http://www.humanesociety.org/about/policy_statements/statement_animal_research.html#Uwth76Mo69I)

<sup>ii</sup> Carbone, L. (1996/1997, Winter) Adoption of Research Animals. *AWIC newsletter*, Vol 7 (No. 3-4) Found online at  
<https://archive.org/details/CAT10401495023>